

C. 4474

County Borough of South Shields




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

for the year 1948

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M.B., ChB., D.P.H.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service during the year 1948.

A perusal of the report will show the comparatively high standard of health among school children and the large amount of work involved in the service which touches the lives of the children at so many points. The service is comprehensive and there are very few directions in which it could be extended, but there is a growing need for increased facilities for the ascertainment and treatment of mal-adjusted and educationally sub-normal children. Within the somewhat limited scope of the scheme, valuable results are being obtained, but there are a good many children who would benefit by properly applied and systematic treatment; and not only the children themselves but the parents of some of them. Very often treatment is not given until a child finds himself in trouble with the police as a result of some delinquency.

There has been a small increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis among school children as compared with the previous year. The number of cases has steadily decreased until it is now only about one-sixth of the number reported twenty years ago. Several factors have continued to produce this result, among which are the use of pasteurised milk, school meals, better housing and the more enlightened co-operation of parents.

I have once more to record my appreciation of the work of the staff of the School Health Service, and to Dr. Levy for his help in the preparation of this report.

Yours faithfully,

W. CAMPBELL LYONS,
School Medical Officer.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

Staff.

The staff of the School Health Service consists of two whole-time and one part-time assistant medical officers; one whole-time and one part-time dental surgeons; the equivalent of seven full-time school nurses; one dental attendant and one nursing assistant.

The service is under the administrative control of the Medical Officer of Health who is the Chief School Medical Officer. The Deputy Medical Officer is Deputy School Medical Officer.

Co-ordination.

The work of the School Health Service is fully co-ordinated with other branches of the Public Health Department. The clerical work is centralised in the Health Department where there are three clerks specially employed in the various school clinics and in arranging routine medical inspections, special examinations and appointments for treatment, other attendances at the clinics, diphtheria immunisation, etc. Other administrative and clerical work incidental to the School Health Service is carried out by various members of the Health Department staff.

There is complete co-ordination between the school health service and the Council's other medical and hospital services.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE IN RELATION TO SCHOOLS MAINTAINED BY THE AUTHORITY.

	<i>Special schools.</i>	<i>Other schools.</i>
Number of children on registers at the end of 1948	288	15,265
Average attendance for the year	236	13,959
Percentage of average attendance for the year:	80.48	92.33
Number of schools	2	26
Number of departments	2	47
Number of nursery classes and accommodation	2 classes with accom- modation for 60.	

Medical Inspection.

The number of children examined at routine and other inspections at maintained primary and secondary schools :—

1. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

	<i>Number of parents present.</i>	<i>Number of children inspected.</i>
Entrants	1,103	1,321
Second age group	1,195	1,395
Third age group	546	1,116
Other routine inspections	102	361
Total	<u>2,946</u>	<u>4,193</u>

2. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of special inspections	6,103
Number of re-inspections	5,993
Total	<u>12,096</u>

Nutrition.

The following is a classification of the state of nutrition of the children examined at routine medical inspections.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
Good	2,208	52.7
Fair	1,635	39.0
Poor	350	8.3

Compared with the previous year's figures there has been an improvement in the general standard of nutrition.

Cleanliness.

Two routine surveys were carried out by the school nurses. The returns this year show a slight improvement on the findings of the previous year's examinations.

13,889 children were examined at the first survey and 13,990 at the second. The proportion of children found to be unclean at the first inspection amounted to 21.2%, and at the second 20.1%.

A review of the figures showed the best schools to have a percentage of uncleanness varying from 4.0% to 8.8% while the worst figures showed that four schools had more than 40% uncleanness.

The state of cleanliness of the children is still far from satisfactory. This, in spite of the thorough survey and following-up of unclean cases by the school nurses, the use of special steel Sacker's combs and the application of D.D.T. preparations.

There is no doubt that home conditions and the lack of proper care by the parents are chiefly to blame.

Tuberculosis.

There was a slight increase in both pulmonary and non-pulmonary types of tuberculosis as compared with 1947. The figures are a summary of the notifications of tuberculosis received by the medical officer of health, or otherwise ascertained. :

Age-Group.	1947		1948	
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
5—10 years	7	6	2	9
10—15 years	2	5	2	9
Total	20		22	
	Non-Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
5—10 years	4	6	5	3
10—15 years	4	1	1	8
Total	15		17	

Following-Up.

The health visitors paid 1,081 visits to homes of school children to ascertain whether the necessary treatment was being obtained, 109 visits in connection with uncleanness, 752 visits after surgical and dental treatment, 98 in connection with orthopaedic cases, 502 regarding educationally subnormal children and 53 other visits.

In addition 137 visits were paid to the schools for routine medical inspection apart from 317 visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness surveys. (This is in addition to visits paid to the homes regarding tuberculosis, infant welfare and infectious diseases).

The health visitors and school nurses also attended 483 sessions at the general school clinics, 253 sessions at the dental clinics, 179 sessions for artificial sunlight treatment, daily sessions for the treatment of scabies, 74 sessions for immunisation, 41 sessions at the ear, nose and throat clinic, apart from attendance at tuberculosis, child welfare and other clinics.

Medical Treatment.

Number of children attending the school clinic in 1948.....	4,582
Number of these children treated.....	3,195

The total number of attendances was 18,322 as compared with 18,452 in 1947.

Since the advent of the new Health Service in July, it has been noticeable that cases of serious illness e.g. pneumonia, and the acute infectious diseases, e.g. scarlet fever and measles, do not now report for advice and treatment as was the case previously.

Parents of moderate means can now call in their own doctor without worrying about the expense.

Skin Diseases.

The number of children who received treatment was as follows:

Impetigo	134
Ringworm (scalp)	9
Ringworm (body)	12
Scabies	61
Other skin diseases	1,237

Generally there was an increase in the number of skin diseases requiring treatment, but a decided decrease in the number of cases of scabies.

Vision.

During the year 1,093 cases were submitted for refraction. In 990 of these spectacles were prescribed. The number of spectacles supplied through the Education Authority's scheme was 594. In addition 28 children with squint were referred to the Ophthalmic Department of the Ingham Infirmary for special eye training or operation; a number of these have now been successfully treated.

Spectacles are now supplied through the National Health Service on the prescription of the school medical officers. There has been very considerable delay between the examination of the child's eyes and the delivery of the spectacles, a delay of sometimes several months, and many complaints from parents and teachers have been received. The Clerk to the Health Executive Council kindly sends every month to the school medical officer a list of school children who have been supplied with spectacles. This assists in the following-up of children with defective vision.

Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.

A large number of cases were again dealt with by the Authority's ear, nose and throat surgeon. He attended 44 sessions at the school clinic during the year ; 406 children were referred to him by the school medical officers. These children made 647 attendances and 214 were referred by the surgeon for operations for middle ear disease, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and sinus and antrum infections.

In all 468 school children received operative treatment at the General Hospital under the Education Authority's scheme in addition to 244 children who received other forms of treatment for diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

Orthopaedic Scheme.

During the year 106 children were referred to the Orthopaedic Department of the Ingham Infirmary. A large number of these were in an early stage of deformity and quickly responded to treatment.

The following is a summary of the cases treated :—

Foot deformities	55
Knee deformities	7
Spinal deformities	7
Torticollis (Wry neck)	3
Talipes (Club foot)	3
Cleft palate	1
Ganglion of wrist	2
Coxa vara (Knock knee)	2
Miscellaneous injuries	10
Other defects	16
Total	<hr/> 106 <hr/>

58 patients made 673 attendances at the out-patients department for treatment, which consisted mainly of remedial exercises, massage or electric treatment. Nine children received in-patient treatment amounting to 77 days in all, during which period 7 operations were performed. Seven patients were known to have received treatment at other hospitals for whom the issue of surgical appliances, artificial limbs, etc., was authorised. Six other children obtained surgical boots or calipers and two children are resident at cripple schools.

Ultra Violet Ray Therapy.

163 children of school age, who made 2,678 attendances, were treated by ultra-violet radiation including treatment by the Kromayer lamp.

The following summarises the conditions treated :—

	Im- proved	Ceased attend- ing	Trans- ferred for treat- ment	Still attend- ing	Total
Debility.....	41	19	—	16	76
Bronchitis	17	8	—	11	36
Cervical adenitis	5	3	4	3	15
Asthma	5	2	—	2	9
Rheumatism.....	1	—	—	—	1
Otitis	2	—	—	—	2
Alopecia	7	—	—	2	9
Psoriasis	3	1	—	1	5
Eczema	1	—	—	—	1
Anaemia	4	1	—	1	6
Diphtheria carriers	3	—	—	—	3
	89	34	4	36	163

As was the case in the previous year many of those who ceased attending had already benefitted by the treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

89 children of school age were immunised during the past year by the medical staff of the Health Department or by private medical attendants as under :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Number</i>
5	52	10.....	4
6	8	11.....	3
7	8	12.....	—
8	6	13.....	3
9	4	14.....	1

In addition, 1,707 children under five years were immunised during 1948.

It was estimated that at the end of 1948, 80 per cent of the school children in the Borough had been immunised. In addition, 649 school children received re-enforcing or “boosting” injections during the year.

Asthma.

The following is a report from Miss M. Barrass, M.C.S.P., Physiotherapist at the South Shields General Hospital, who holds a weekly session at the School Clinic for children suffering from asthma.

CHILDREN'S REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

“The weekly class at the Municipal Clinic has continued throughout the year. Most patients attending are those suffering from asthma but there are, as before, also a number suffering from bronchitis, bronchial asthma, habitual mouth breathing, poorly developed chests and bronchiectasis. All children perform the class exercises and some require other treatment, e.g. postural drainage for bronchiectasis and more specific exercises.

Patients are sent by the school medical officers, the tuberculosis medical officer and the ear, nose and throat surgeon.

TECHNIQUE.

General principles remain the same as before, viz. :—

1. Teaching of specific breathing exercises with emphasis on
 - (a) lower costal breathing.
 - (b) diaphragmatic breathing.
 - (c) correct expiration.
 - (d) general relaxation.
 - (e) aiding interchange of gases in lungs, e.g. chest clappings, etc.
2. Exercises to encourage mobility of shoulder girdle and thorax.
3. Teaching of correct posture.
4. General exercises and games (accommodation and apparatus still limited).

Co-operation of parents and children remains good. Parents state that they have in many cases observed improvement in general health of children, and that asthma attacks are lessened in frequency and severity when exercises are regularly performed. The necessity for regularity—preferably twice daily—is always stressed.

A weekly weight record is kept for each child. Patients are reviewed at intervals of six weeks to two months by the school medical officer.

ATTENDANCES AND RESULTS.

Number of children treated	36 (22 boys and 14 girls).
Variation in ages	5—15 years.
Number of classes held	44
Total number of attendances	334
Average number in class	8
Number of new patients	22
Patients failing to attend	4

RESULTS.

Patients discharged as being greatly improved	11
Patients reporting at fortnightly intervals	1
Patients reporting at monthly intervals	7

Two patients suffering from asthma have continued these exercises while in the General Hospital for observation and treatment.

Three patients have been referred to the ear, nose and throat department.

Two patients have been referred to the Northern Region Thoracic Unit by the tuberculosis medical officer."

Dental Defects.

The following is a report on dental inspection by Mr. F. Innes, L. D. S., Senior School Dentist.

"I have pleasure in presenting my dental report for the year 1948.

The work has proceeded in a similar manner to that adopted in previous years and all the schools in the Borough, with the exception of two, were visited by Mr. Reid or myself and the children in attendance were dentally inspected. The schools which had to be omitted were visited early in the following year.

A total of 14,135 children were inspected and of this number 6,276 (44.4%) required treatment. All children needing treatment were treated at the clinic when the consent of the parents or guardians was obtained. The total number treated was 3,499, or 55.7% of those who required treatment.

Altogether, 1,405 fillings were inserted (1,390 in permanent teeth) and 7,332 extractions were necessary, 1,013 of these being of permanent teeth.

Regarding the number of extractions of permanent teeth, I would point out that all of these were not carious and that 427 were extracted to relieve a crowded condition of the teeth. 533 were carious or septic : 53 of this number were abscessed.

The beneficial result of the extractions which were causing overcrowding can be seen after a year or two, leading to the formation of an almost perfect arch in most cases, and, unless the mouth is carefully examined, the fact that some teeth have been extracted would not be noticed. Parents have remarked later, when, perhaps, the child has come up for further treatment, what a great improvement has been effected.

A few orthodontic cases have been referred to the Sutherland Dental Hospital and at the present time a few cases are still attending for treatment.

The prejudice against conservative work still exists and in some cases parents think that dental treatment is unnecessary until the need is obvious, i.e. when toothache begins. Curiously enough, there are some people who want teeth filled when extraction is the only treatment possible.

Generally speaking, the oral condition of the children continues to improve and in some of the senior schools it is particularly gratifying to note the well-cared-for condition of the mouths. Altogether there has been a big improvement during the last few years.

The teeth of the children in the infant schools has also improved considerably and there are not nearly so many septic mouths as there were a few years ago.

The invitation to parents to be present at the first dental inspection of infants has resulted in over 60% of the parents attending."

Hospital Treatment.

Facilities for free medical treatment were made available to school children at the South Shields hospitals and several hospitals in the area. From January 1st until July 4th, under the arrangements made by the Education Authority, 203 children spent 3,723 days in hospital and 244 children made 646 attendances at out-patients departments during 1948. This is exclusive of tonsils and adenoids, tuberculosis and orthopaedic arrangements.

Physical Education.

The following is a report by the Physical Education Organisers, Miss J. W. Thompson and Mr. W. Yelder.

"The wet summer of 1948, in marked contrast to the previous year, interfered somewhat with outdoor physical training and games especially in schools with no indoor accommodation, but this was largely balanced by the unusually dry and mild winter which followed.

The new type of work in Infant and Junior Schools which was introduced last year is making satisfactory progress, and was extended by a course for men teachers in Junior Schools. The interpretation of this work is rather a severe change to the older teachers but they have adapted themselves well and introduced the work with considerable success and have found increased interest and enjoyment evident in the children which adds to the pleasure of taking the lessons.

The future development of the work with Infants and Juniors will undoubtedly see the introduction of more apparatus both portable and fixed, for the performance of climbing, heaving, balancing, jumping and vaulting activities. Such activities are a more natural form of physical exercise for young children and are probably even more essential and more beneficial for them than for the older children for whom gymnasia are provided. At the moment the development of such apparatus is limited by shortage of timber, limitation of manufacture and high prices, but the future will probably see a kind of gymnasium or exercise room with suitable apparatus provided in Junior Schools.

The improvement in schools swimming during the year is worthy of special mention. The extra session at the baths made available to the girls the previous September has proved of real value and resulted in a record number of 243 Swimming Certificates being gained in the examination held in July. This exceeds the previous record by 80 certificates.

The boys swimming has been notable for the number of Royal Life Saving Society awards gained during the year. A great effort has been made by the swimming instructor and teachers to restore the pre-war standard of Life Saving, and these efforts have been most successful. During the year 207 awards were gained including 16 Bronze Crosses, the highest award which can be gained by boys of 15 years of age.

The annual Swimming Gala, was held as usual and once again was marked by keen competition for the Schools Championship.

The Cleadon Park Recreation Ground was, as usual, used to its fullest capacity for school games and sports, and a further step forward in the provision of playing fields was recorded during the year by the opening of games fields at Cleadon

Park Secondary Boys and Girls Schools and Harton Junior Boys and Girls Schools. It is worthy of note that the Harton Schools are the first Junior Schools in the town to have their own playing fields on the school site.

The various Schools Sports Associations carried on their good work in the usual way. Ample evidence of the activity of the Schools' Football Association can be seen by a visit to the Recreation Ground any Saturday morning, where every pitch is occupied for three successive matches, with additional matches taking place on other school grounds and at the Temple Memorial Park. Each week nearly 400 boys take part in these games, and there must be few towns of comparable size where as many organised football matches are played out of school hours. The activities of the Cricket Association are limited by the number of suitable pitches available but once again full use was made of all facilities and in spite of the poor summer weather, the full programme of matches was completed. The Girls' Netball Association continues to function satisfactorily. A tournament held at the end of the season showed a very good standard of play—the only thing that marred the day being the intense cold.

During the summer, the introduction of tennis to the curriculum of the Girls' Secondary Schools was most popular, and it is hoped to extend this scheme next year.

As was stated last year the great demand for recreative work has to be curtailed by the very serious lack of suitable teachers and leaders. The classes for both men and women that have been carried on have been appreciated and well attended."

School Baths.

The attendance of children at the Baths in school parties during 1948 was as follows :—

Boys	27,666
Girls	15,755
<hr/>	
Total	43,421
<hr/>	

A total of 1,495 Swimming Certificates were obtained by pupils in the course of the year. and in addition 207 gained Royal Life Saving Society awards.

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK.

Free Meals—Dinner only.

Total number of meals supplied to children during the year 1948—
305,075.

Number of individual children supplied—1,413.

Total cost (food only)—£7,205 18s. 9d.

Number of Centres—30.

Free Milk.

Number of individual children supplied—13,000 (approx.)

Total quantity supplied (third pints)—2,476,934.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

Educationally Sub-Normal.

During 1948, 80 children reported by the head teachers or brought to notice in other ways as very much retarded in educational progress, were specially examined by the assistant school medical officers, whose recommendations are summarised below. (Included are some children who were re-examined following an inconclusive result in a previous year) :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Educationally sub-normal			
1. For ordinary school with special provision	18	24	42.
2. For special day school	14	12	26
3. For special boarding school	—	—	—
Inconclusive	5	3	8
Not educationally sub-normal	—	1	1
Referred to Child Guidance Clinic	3	—	3

Twenty children were recommended to be reported to the Mental Deficiency Act Committee or Local Health Authority with a view to their being sent to an institution or to being kept under supervision or guardianship.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a) Under Section 57(3) Education Act, 1944 (incapable of receiving education at school)	4	6	10
(b) Under Section 57(5) Education Act, 1944 (requiring supervision on leaving the special school).....	5	5	10

At the end of 1948, there were 233 educationally sub-normal children under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee, as under :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In special schools	52	66	118
In maintained primary or secondary schools	55	49	104
In independent schools	1	3	4
Not at school	6	1	7

All the educationally sub-normal children who have been recommended for special schools have been admitted except :—

2 girls at ordinary school (objections by parents).

2 boys at ordinary school (who will be admitted in 1949).

1 boy receiving home tuition also physically handicapped.

1 girl at a private school.

ENUMERATION OF HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

The following is a summary of the Handicapped Pupils as in early January, 1949, as defined in the Ministry's Regulations.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY AGE-GROUP.

	In Special Schools.		In maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.		In Independent Schools.		Not at School.		Total.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
2 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	3	2	4	2	1	—	1	2	1	2
7	6	8	9	5	—	—	4	3	12	7
8	10	8	21	6	—	—	6	3	21	16
9	13	11	28	17	—	1	3	3	34	18
10	16	9	48	16	—	—	3	3	44	32
11	32	22	53	32	—	—	3	2	67	27
12	17	19	84	35	—	—	5	7	90	61
13	17	15	52	27	—	—	—	5	101	59
14	23	24	57	41	1	1	2	4	73	47
15	11	22	29	29	—	—	3	3	83	69
16	10	20	—	3	—	—	7	6	47	57
17	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	13	24
18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19 and over.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	158	161	385	213	2	4	40	42	585	420

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY DISABILITY.

Category Disability.	In Special Schools.		In maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.		In Independent Schools.		Not at School.		Total.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
(a) Blind	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(b) Partially sighted	9	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	11	7
(c) Deaf	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	7
(d) Partially deaf	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
(e) Delicate	63	75	18	23	—	—	—	—	81	98
(f) Diabetic	—	49	—	42	—	3	1	—	1	—
(g) Educ. subnormal	38	—	48	—	—	—	2	—	88	94
(h) Epileptic	—	—	20	7	—	1	—	—	—	—
(i) Maladjusted	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	24	10
(j) Physically h'c'pd.	6	3	—	—	1	—	31	37	39	40
(k) Speech defect	7	1	283	134	—	—	—	—	290	135
(l) Multiple disabilities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) and (e)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(b) and (g)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) and (j)	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
(e) and (g)	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
(e) (g) and (k)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(e) and (i)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
(e) and (k)	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
(g) and (i)	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
(g) (i) and (k)	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
(g) and (j)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
(g) (j) and (k)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
(g) and (k)	9	12	7	6	—	—	—	—	16	18
(i) and (k)	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Totals	158	161	385	213	2	4	40	42	535	420

The ascertainment of handicapped children has been helped by returns from the School Attendance Department of all children removed from the registers on account of prolonged illness or of children who were otherwise not in attendance at school.

The records of the Tuberculosis Clinic have also been searched. Mrs. Salkeld, of the Speech Therapy Centre, has also carried out a very full census of children with speech defects and has from time to time visited all the schools for the purpose of ascertaining those children so affected.

A number of those "physically handicapped" are tuberculous cases in hospital or sanatorium. Where the latter have schools attached, these have been classed as "at special schools."

Some of the children have been receiving education in local hospitals by arrangement with the Education Department and special teachers. Some who are not suitable for hospital or special school are receiving home tuition from teachers.

A number of delicate children at ordinary schools have been withdrawn from the Open Air School by their parents, or for poor attendances. Some have refused Open Air School recommendations.

Similarly with some other physically handicapped children.

Only two or three educationally sub-normal children recommended for special schools are at ordinary schools—all the others are at the special school. That is, the most of the E.S.N. group at ordinary schools are those who have been so recommended by the assistant school medical officers.

Maladjusted Children.

23 children were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic in Sunderland during 1948. 13 of these were delinquents, 5 were maladjusted, 3 were regarded as educationally sub-normal and 2 were enuretics. A number of these cases were sent by the Probation Officer, having been before the courts for stealing. By careful handling and an understanding of the child's grievance and background, much can be achieved to help him to become a useful citizen. We are again grateful for the valuable reports given by Dr. Hinds, and the able assistance of Miss Stirling and the staff of the Sunderland Education Authority Child Guidance Centre.

Special Day (E.S.N.) School.

The arrangements and curriculum at this school as described in last year's report were adhered to in 1948.

There were 119 children in attendance towards the end of the year. 29 new pupils were admitted and 33 left. One leaver was discharged, having been certified as being ineducable; one transferred to Prudhoe Hall Colony and one left the district.

It is interesting to note that 15 of the remainder, all over the age of 16, are still working in the original employment. The others have had various jobs.

The fact that all have been employed in spite of their limitations, speaks well for the training and discipline at this school.

An exhibition of the work of the school was held in November 1948. 250 people visited the school and were impressed with the quality of the work and the behaviour of the children.

In March, a Youth Club for former pupils was formed. Attendances average 20 per meeting.

There is much scope in this direction if there were more helpers to run interesting sidelines to encourage the interests and activities of these young people.

A domestic science room has been fully equipped and will be opened early in 1949. Pupils from both this school and the Open Air School will attend.

Speech Training.

During the year six intensive treatment courses were held at the Wesley Street Centre at which 40 boys and 11 girls attended. Of these, 23 were stammerers, 4 had other speech defects and 24 had a stammer plus other speech defect. As a result of treatment, 35 were considered to have speech under control; 8 were regarded as having speech under control but needing further part-time treatment and 8 were considered to have improved speech but required further intensive treatment.

57 children—35 boys and 22 girls—also attended the six courses for part-time treatment. Of these, 33 were stammerers; 6 had other speech defects and 18 had a stammer plus other speech defects.

The speech therapist also visited the schools and gave advice or treatment to 291 children.

Regarding the type of treatment, the intensive course included the Berquand and Relaxation methods which continue to prove most beneficial.

The part-time treatment enables certain children to gain that extra confidence needed to have speech thoroughly under control and to continue practising relaxation therapy.

During school visits, contact is maintained with past patients, slight cases and children unable to visit the centre are assisted. In addition, teachers are advised how to help with speech defects. Contact is also made with new cases requiring help in speech difficulties.

Open Air School.

The school has accommodation for 150 delicate children and 20 partially sighted pupils. There has been a marked improvement in the general physique of most of the children, especially those of 11—15 years.

The general opinion of the mothers who attended at the annual medical inspection was that the children had improved appetites and had greatly benefitted by open air education.

The delicate pupils are classified as follows :—

	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>
Malnutrition	7	4
Anaemia	7	3
Non-infectious tuberculosis	6	3
Bronchitis and asthma	9	18
Heart disease	6	—
Chorea	2	1
Rheumatism.....	—	1
Epilepsy	1	—
Debility.....	47	50
Totals	<u>85</u>	<u>80</u>

It will be seen that there are a larger number of asthma cases than usual. Some of these also attend remedial exercise classes ; an encouraging improvement has been noticeable.

Throughout the year, 43 children have left and 47 have been admitted. 27 children have gone back to their original schools. They are reported to have settled down well. Relapses or return cases are very rare.

Of those who left during the year, fifteen children, all over 15, are occupied as follows :—

Five are working in factories ; five work in shops ; two help in the home ; one assists in an hotel ; one is a clerk and one boy is working with the Corporation groundsmen.

During 1948, the general attendance has been better than usual. It has seldom been below 84% even in the winter. This may be considered to be very satisfactory when so many children lose attendances through having frequent hospital and clinic treatment.

The partially-sighted children, 20 in number, spend half the day doing the “ three Rs.” and some handwork under the guidance of their own teacher. The remainder of the day they are taught general subjects with other children of their own age.

Examination of the children showed that there was general improvement in their physique and in only one case was there any deterioration in vision.

Two new cases were admitted during 1948. One child had choroiditis and the other was highly myopic.

Convalescent Home.

23 school children were admitted to the Convalescent Home under the Education Authority's scheme during 1948. The total number of in-patient days was 2,292.

After September, there were no further admissions as the premises were no longer available.

Shoeless Children's Fund.

The Chief Constable informs me that 834 children were supplied with boots, shoes or clogs during the year through this Fund, of which he is Honorary Secretary.

Higher Education of the Blind.

At the end of the year two blind girls were attending higher education courses.

Nursery Classes.

The children at the Harton Nursery were examined during the year. Out of 47 examined, 8 were found to have defects as follows :

Blepharitis	1
Defective vision	1
Eneuresis	2
Warts	2
Flat feet	1
Skin affection	1
Tonsils and adenoids	1
Observation	1
Total	10

Miscellaneous.

22 children who required certificates for stage performances were examined. All were granted the necessary certificate.

184 children temporarily employed out of school hours were examined in accordance with local Byelaws. All were passed as fit.

Deaths in School Children.

The following is a statement of the causes of death during 1948 of children of school age (5 to 14 years) :—

Causes of Deaths	Boys.		Girls.		Total.
	5—9 Years.	10—14 Years.	5—9 Years.	10—14 Years.	
Tuberculosis : respiratory	—	—	1	—	1
Tuberculosis : other forms	—	—	2	2	4
Rheumatic myocarditis	1	—	—	—	1
Mongolism	1	—	—	—	1
Mastoiditis	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1
Tonsillectomy	1	—	—	—	1
Nephritis	—	—	—	1	1
Road accidents	1	1	1	—	3
Burns	—	—	1	—	1
Total	4	1	6	4	15

Mental Health Clinic.

Dr. George McCoull, Superintendent of Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital, held nine sessions during the year and examined 29 cases, chiefly low-grade mentally defectives referred to him by the school medical staff. He also saw two special cases at the General Hospital. These cases were generally in need of institutional care, but unfortunately, in very few instances was it possible for this to be arranged.

Paediatric Clinic.

Dr. J. B. Arthur, Physician at the General Hospital, examined 69 cases referred from the school clinic in 26 sessions. A number were admitted to hospital for investigation and treatment.

Owing to hospital re-organisation in the area, this clinic ceased to be held at the Municipal Clinic after 5th August. Special arrangements were made, however, for Dr. Arthur to examine and report on cases referred by the clinic medical staff. 13 children were seen at the General Hospital.

Table 1.—Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	1,321
Second Age Group	1,395
Third Age Group	1,116
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Total	3,832
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Number of other periodic inspections	361
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Grand Total	4,193
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	6,103
Number of Re-Inspections.....	5,993
Total	12,096

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group. (1)	For defective vision (ex- cluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. (3)	Total .. individual pupils. (4)
Entrants	12	374	380
Second Age Group	167	363	479
Third Age Group	135	263	299
Total(prescribed groups)	314	1,000	1,158
Other Periodic Inspections	33	55	71
Grand Total	347	1,055	1,229

Table 2.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects.		No. of defects.	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation but not re- quiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not re- quiring treatment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin	107	79	1,506	3
5	Eyes— a. Vision ..	311	280	531	—
	b. Squint	100	25	45	—
	c. Other	64	9	209	—
6	Ears— a. Hearing ..	12	5	15	—
	b. Otitis				
	Media	25	7	17	3
	c. Other	28	82	247	17
7	Nose or Throat	299	49	606	165
8	Speech	5	27	3	—
9	Cervical Glands	16	115	36	5
10	Heart and Circulation	24	—	6	—
11	Lungs	51	—	36	28
12	Development—				
	a. Hernia	9	—	1	—
	b. Other	14	—	—	—
13	Orthopaedic—				
	a. Posture	15	—	—	—
	b. Flat foot	14	—	7	4
	c. Other	78	16	35	34
14	Nervous system—				
	a. Epilepsy	—	—	2	—
	b. Other	18	22	9	4
15	Psychological—				
	a. Development	1	—	—	—
	b. Stability	—	—	—	—
16	Other	195	21	1,271	181

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups.	Number of Pupils Inspected.	A. (Good).		B. (Fair).		C. (Poor).	
		No.	% of col.2	No.	% of col.2	No.	% of col.2
(1)	(2)						
Entrants	1,321	760	57.5	521	39.4	40	3.0
Second Age Group	1,395	537	38.5	623	44.7	235	16.8
Third Age Group	1,116	693	62.1	375	33.6	48	4.3
Other Periodic Inspections	361	218	60.4	116	32.1	27	7.5
Total	4,193	2,208	52.7	1,635	39.0	350	8.3

Table 3.—Treatment Tables.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).

(a)	Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year.
SKIN.—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment. If none, indicate by dash	—
(ii) Other treatment	9
Ringworm—Body	12
Scabies	61
Impetigo	134
Other skin diseases	1,287
Eye Disease	218
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)	
Ear Defects	244
(Treatment for serious diseases of the ear (<i>e.g.</i> operative treatment in hospital) should not be recorded here but in the body of the School Medical Officer's Annual Report).	
Miscellaneous	734
(<i>e.g.</i> minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	
Total	2,699

(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics.....	18,322
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GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

	No. of Defects dealt with.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint). (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report	1,093
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	—
Total	<u>1,093</u>

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed	990
(b) Obtained	594

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

	Total number Treated.
Received operative treatment :—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	423
(b) for other nose and throat conditions.....	45
Received other forms of treatment	244
Total	<u>712</u>

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools	11
(b) No. treated otherwise <i>e.g.</i> in clinics or out-patient departments	121

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY.

No. of pupils treated

(a) under Child Guidance arrangements	23
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements	291

Table 4.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—

(a) Periodic age groups	14,133
(b) Specials	2
(c) Total (Periodic and Specials)	14,135

(2) Number found to require treatment 6,276

(3) Number actually treated 3,499

(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment 4,489

(5) Half-days devoted to : (a) Inspection 118
(b) Treatment 625

Total (a) and (b) 743

(6) Fillings Permanent Teeth 1,390
Temporary Teeth 15

Total 1,405

(7) Extractions Permanent Teeth 1,013
Temporary Teeth 6,319

Total 7,332

(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction 151

(9) Other Operations : (a) Permanent Teeth 171
(b) Temporary Teeth 34

Total (a) and (b) 205

Table 5.—Infestation with Vermin.

	1st Survey.	2nd Survey.
(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	17,589	18,023
Number of individual children examined	13,889	13,990
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	2,942	2,813
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	—	—
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—	—
